

Amendment

Applicant: Jeffrey Allen Neilsen et al.

Serial No.: 10/603,896

Filed: June 24, 2003

Docket No.: 100201650-1

Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PRODUCING IMPROVED COLORING IN AN OBJECT
PRODUCED THROUGH SOLID FREEFORM FABRICATION

REMARKS

This Amendment modifies the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed herewith.

With this Amendment, claims 20-47 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 48-64 have been added, and claims 1, 3, 7-10, and 15 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1-19 and 48-64, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang et al. US Patent No. 6,401,002 in combination with either Shields et al. US Patent No. 5,181,045 (Shields I) or Shields et al. US Patent No. 5,428,383 (Shields II).

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes **"providing a second material" and "causing a reaction between the first material and the second material that keeps the colorant near a surface of the object,"** wherein **"the first material comprises a binder or a build material, and the second material comprises a binder or a build material."**

With respect to the Jang, Shields I, and Shields II references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not disclose a method as claimed in independent claim 1 including, amongst other things and in the combination recited, providing a second material and causing a reaction between the first material and the second material that keeps the colorant near a surface of the object, wherein the first material comprises a binder or a build material, and the second material comprises a binder or a build material.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claim 1, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Jang, Shields I, and Shields II references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 1-19 be allowed.

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New Claims

With this Amendment, new claims 48-64 have been added, with claim 48 being independent and claims 49-64 depending therefrom.

The method of new independent claim 48 includes **"forming a layer of the three-dimensional object, including providing contact between a first material and a second material, the first material containing a colorant" and "precipitating the colorant out of the first material upon contact of the first and second materials,"** wherein **"the first material comprises a binder or a build material, and the second material comprises a binder or a build material."**

With respect to the Jang, Shields I, and Shields II references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not disclose a method as claimed in independent 48.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claim 48, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Jang, Shields I, and Shields II references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that claims 48-64 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-19 and 48-64 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment should be directed to either Jeff D. Limon at Telephone No. (541) 715-5979, Facsimile No. (541) 715-8581 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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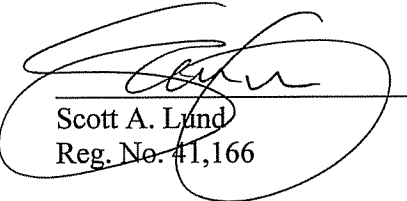
Respectfully submitted,

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